



Employee News

Governor M. Jodi Rell

Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara

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"Ask the Commissioner"

If you have a question for Commissioner O'Meara, you are invited to e-mail Joan Barnish at joan.barnish@po.state.ct.us

SEND US YOUR STORIES

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A Special Night for All

Beautifully dressed and coifed, Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) staff members, consumers and their families gathered in celebration of the 10th Annual Lower Fairfield Center's (LFC) Black Tie Dinner Dance.

The event, which was held at the Continental Manor in Norwalk, boasted nearly 350 in attendance. As dinner was served, a slide presentation representing the past nine Black Tie Events was viewed and enjoyed by all.

DJ Big Daddy was on hand with a variety of dinner Music, along with a number of the crowd's favorites. Mothers could be seen dancing with their sons, while fathers danced with their daughters. Later in the evening, the floor came alive when some

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Left to Right: West Region Director Dimitri Triantafillakis, Representative Christel Truglia, Deputy Commissioner Kathryn duPree, LFC Residential Director Richard Bosco and LFC Parents & Friends President Fritzie Levine

South Region Management Retreat

The leadership team of DMR's South Region enjoyed a day in the outdoors in May when the Management Team Retreat took place at the Franciscan Life Center in Meriden. The theme for the day-long training event was collaboration, communication, and team-work. Participants experienced trust-building and problem-solving exercises, such as crossing an "ocean" (actually a field!) with limited material resources with many constraining rules to follow, and swinging fellow co-workers across a "hazardous" area using ropes. Lecture sessions focused on identifying one's outlook toward change and determining the areas we have control over in our work environments. The combination of the beautiful outdoor setting, perfect weather, and great facilitation by the Franciscan Center staff made for a productive and enjoyable event that was well received by the South team.

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of the crowd flowed onto the dance floor for the Electric Slide.

LFC President Fritzie Levine and Program Supervisor Lee Ellen Chantos presented Area Regional Director Jackson Pierre-Louis with a plaque for founding the Black Tie Event and creating this special evening for residents. Flowers were presented to staff members thanking them for their hard work in making this wonderful evening such an incredible success. In addition, the Liberation House, a halfway house for individuals recovering from alcohol and drug dependency, was recognized for their many years of volunteer services to LFC. Deputy Commissioner Kathryn duPree reflected on DMR and LFC before presenting a letter to Program Supervisor Ronald Tomlin for his nomination for the Governor's Service Award.

In all, this event was a remarkable evening, filled with memories enough to last until next year!

Annual Garden Fundraiser

On a beautiful afternoon recently, Raven Lawn Community Living Arrangement (CLA) located in Killingly, held its Annual Garden Fundraiser Block Dance. With approximately 70 people in attendance from local private and public CLA's, family and friends gathered to enjoy a cookout prepared by clients and staff. DJ's Al Berger and G-Rod were available to spin the music. In addition to raising \$115, which will go towards future improvements, maintenance and beautification of the garden at Raven Lawn, a wonderful time was had by all!

Remembering A Friend

Family, friends and colleagues gathered recently at the Hartford Regional Center in Newington on Michael Gaudreau's birthday, to dedicate a memorial bench in his memory and mark the first anniversary of his passing on August 31, 2005.

Michael was remembered by fellow co-worker Glenn C. Wilhide as "... a person that you are truly fortunate to have met in one's lifetime. He was down to earth, but had such class. He was a family man and loved to tell you about them, to mention their success and achievements, to participate in the special events in their lives. He was so generous. He was always there for others. He could find that time for you when no one else could. He would drop everything and come rushing to your assistance. He was supportive and a good listener. He cared..." Those are just a few of the praises spoken of Michael.

Case Management Supervisor Mike Blaszkowski's father donated the beautiful polished granite bench which was inscribed with the following simple message about Michael: "Our friend, Mike Gaudreau, Kind... Generous... and Caring. Dedicated 8/2/06."



Regional Director John Houchin is joined by the family of Michael Gaudreau in front of the bench which was donated in his memory